

(Washington, DC) Last night, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) introduced legislation that would establish a national plan for improving long-term care and community services. *The Commission on Improving Long-Term Care and Community Services Act of 2010* directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a National Commission on Improving Long-Term Care and Services. The Commission will be composed of a variety of federal and national stakeholders that will construct a comprehensive strategy on how to increase the affordability, accessibility and effectiveness of long-term care and community services in the U.S. and U.S. territories
(Please find attached a copy of the bill)

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“In a little more than twenty years, one-fifth of the U.S. population will be age sixty-five or older. States with significant elder populations like Florida know the importance of ensuring that our health care system is well equipped to provide adequate long-term care services,” Hastings stated. “However, there has never been a national plan for long-term care, and nearly twenty years have passed since Congress comprehensively reviewed our nation’s long-term care policy.”

Long-term care is a broad range of health and social services that are used by people who cannot care for themselves independently because they live with a physical, cognitive, or mental disability. Well over 9.4 million adults receive long-term care in the United States and this number is expected to rise. Longer life spans among the chronically ill and disabled, and higher incidences of acquired disabilities from unmanaged conditions such as HIV/AIDS, diabetes, obesity and heart disease has created an increase in our reliance on long-term care.

“Last year, I introduced H.Res. 217, which expressed the need for a national strategy on long-term care, and the necessity for including long-term care in comprehensive health care reform. Many agreed that addressing the state of long-term care and community services is critically important to improving our health care system. However, concerns about the potentially high cost of implementing corrective measures stymied efforts to aggressively tackle the problem in the health reform bill,” further noted Hastings. “The Commission on Improving Long-Term Care and Community Services Act of 2010 is a cost effective way to ensure that we comprehensively address long-term care and community services in the U.S. and U.S. territories.”

Joining Congressman Hastings as original co-sponsors (15) are: Representatives James McGovern (MA), Donna Christensen (VI), John Conyers, Jr. (MI), Corrine Brown (FL), Emanuel Cleaver (IL), , Rosa DeLauro (CA), Bob Filner (CA), Kendrick Meek (FL), Gregory Meeks (NY), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D.C.), Laura Richardson (CA), Bobby Rush (IL), Danny K. Davis (IL), Barbara Lee (CA) and Bennie Thompson (MS).

The Commission on Improving Long-term Care and Community Services Act of 2010 is supported by: National Alliance for Caregiving, The National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc (NCBA)., American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA), Alliance for Aging Research, and Association of Jewish Aging Services of North America.

Congressman Alcee L. Hastings is Vice Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, a senior member of the House Rules Committee, and Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

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 [Hastings COMMISSION BILL on Long-term Care 4.29.2010.pdf](#)